Vegetable Ghee production in U.P.

2275. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the licensed capacity for reduction of vegetable shee in Uttar Pradesh as on the 31st March, 1987;

(b) whether this capacity is being fully utilised by the vegetable ghee factories in the State, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government propose to issue licenses for setting up new factories in that State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) The licensed capacity for production of vegetable ghee in Uttar Pradesh as on 31st March, 1987 is 2,295 lakh tonnes.

(b) No, Sir. The capacity is not being fully utilised due to various factors like power-cut, labour problem, boiler and machinery cleaning etc.

(c) Presently, there is no proposal to issue licenses for setting up new factories in the State.

Corruption in Food Corporation of India Punjab

2276. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any representation dated 10th October 1986 regarding corruption in the Food Corporation of India; Punjab had been received by Government;

(b) if so, the nature of corrupt practices reportedly indulged in by the authorities;

(c) whether any investigation has been made into the matter; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof and the action being taken by Government against the guilty officers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) These briefly relate to wooden crates showing undue favour in award of contracts, and improper storage and movement plans, resulting in infructuous expenditure, and irregularities in the customs milling of paddy.

(c) and (d). The allegations are under enquiry/investigations by the Zonal Manager (North) Food Corporation of India, the Central Bureau of Investigation, and the State Police and their findings are still awaited.

Payment of dues to sugarcane growers

2277. DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY.
SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that huge arrears of payment have become due to the sugarcane growers from sugar mills of the country for the cane supplied by them since 1986;

(b) if so, what are the accumulated arrears of such payment as on the 1st April, 1987; and the figure for the year 1986; and

(c) what steps have been taken so far or proposed to be taken to ensure payment of these dues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b). During 1985-86 sugar season (October 1985 to September 1986) sugarcane worth Rs. 1638 crores nearly had been purchased by sugar mills. Out of this amount only about Rs. 3.9 crores remained to be cleared as on 31st March, 1987. For the sugar season 1986-87 (beginning 1st October 1986) the sugar mill had purchased sugarcane worth Rs. 1527 crores. Out of this about Rs. 158 crores remained to be cleared as on 31st March, 1987.

(c) Ensuring payment of cane price arrears is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments who have the necessary field organisations and powers to enforce such payments. The Central Government monitors the position and requests the State Governments from time to time for ensuring expeditious clearance of cane price. The Central Government, on its part, has taken various measures like raising the statutory